

in Scotland during May, 1889, four Golden Eagles were caught on an adjoining estate by means of a single dead cat.

The total extermination of eagles would be to my mind an indescribable calamity, as wherever wild regions are found, either in the Rocky Mountains, the Scottish Highlands, or the badlands, the appearance of an eagle puts the finishing touch to the grandest and most impressive scene.

NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

IN THE accompanying notes data concerning some of the common gulls of our coast are presented for the purpose of emphasizing the favorable results, evident even to the casual observer, which have been produced by the passage of laws of greater stringency for the better protection of these birds. The enactment of these, together with the conviction and fining of a few flagrant offenders through the activity of the Chairman of the National Association of Audubon Societies, Mr. William Dutcher, have been of evident benefit to birds, in that gulls have been seen more or less commonly the past summer through, along the whole south shore of the island.

The passage of the law preventing spring shooting of ducks seems likewise to have been beneficial. Sportsmen and baymen are unanimous in their opinion that ducks have been more abundant in the Great South Bay this autumn than usual. It is possible that other factors have combined with the law to bring about this immense increase in the number of ducks this autumn. At any rate the facts are a strong argument against the repeal of this law, which latter many short-sighted Long Islanders desire. Brief references to a few other species are given for reasons which are evident in the text.

Larus kumlieni. Kumlien's Gull is herewith definitely recorded for the first time as a bird of Long Island. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., whose paper on the plumages and moults of North American Gulls is, we believe, in press, has examined the specimen which I recorded in 'The Auk,' April, 1899, p. 190, as "*Larus leucopterus* (or *kumlieni*).\" Dr. Dwight's investigations, which will hereafter enable one to identify the immature as well as the adults of *L. leucopterus* and *L. kumlieni*, have determined the differential diagnosis of the two immature birds heretofore impossible. The color of the shafts of the primaries are, he finds, invariably distinctive.

Larus marinus. The first Great Black-backed Gull observed this autumn at the western end of Long Island was seen by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey, on Nov. 20, 1904, at Rockaway. The earliest fall record of this bird for this locality which the writer knows is November 3. Both these dates are considered early, the birds rarely occurring here in abundance much before Christmas. The northward departure occurs correspondingly early, March 13 being the date on which the last bird has been seen.

Larus argentatus. The common Herring Gull has been rather common the summer through for the past three or four years from Rockaway Beach to Montauk. Before this, one saw them regularly in Peconic Bay and but rarely elsewhere, in summer. They do not nest on Long Island but the increasing number of 'left overs,' as the baymen term them, is taken to indicate their increasing numbers elsewhere, which we regard as due largely to the efforts of the Audubon Societies, through their Treasurer, to extend absolute protection to them along the whole Atlantic coast, especially during the breeding season.

Larus delawarensis. The Ring-billed Gull is not uncommon in our locality in summer. At least 50 were observed July 4, 1902, at Freeport. One killed there on Sept. 5, 1901, was in an advanced stage of moult, the throat being nearly bare. Immature and adult Ring-billed Gulls pass along this part of the coast in large numbers in October, when they are also common in our harbors. The last one was noted on November 17. The writer has no record of this bird in winter for this locality.

Larus atricilla. The only gull for which evidence still exists to support a claim for it as a breeding species on Long Island,

has as yet shown no marked evidence of increased numbers. One was seen at Rockaway Beach as late as Sept. 2, 1904.

Aythya americana, **Aythya vallisneria**, **Aythya marila nearctica**. During the last week of August, 1904, Scaup Ducks and Red-heads were present in the South Bay opposite Speonk and the vicinity, the larger number being the first. Both these have continued to be abundant during October and November. Gunners, quite a number of whom have been questioned by the writer, report them more common than they remember them to have been before.

During October, 1904, Mr. J. A. Fonda saw in the eastern end of the Great South Bay a flock of six Canvas-backs, two of which were secured, and later a single Canvas-back was killed from a flock of Scaup Ducks.

Among other ducks more common here in October than usual were *Anas boschas*, *Dafila acuta* and *Erismatura jamaicensis*.

Limosa hemastica and **Tryngites subruficollis**. Two specimens of the Hudsonian Godwit and one Buff-breasted Sandpiper were collected by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn, the former (♀ and ♂) on Aug. 30, 1903, and the latter Sept. 11, 1904, all at Rockaway Beach. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was flying along the outer beach.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. According to the personal testimony of Mr. W. W. Worthington the Cliff Swallow was formerly rather common locally on Long Island. As a breeding bird it is, now, certainly rare. It seems to migrate along the ocean coasts much less abundantly than other species of swallows. Though often looked for, the writer only obtained his first Long Island specimen Sept. 5, 1904, at Rockaway Beach.

Hirundo erythrogastra. An albino Barn Swallow was shot by the writer at Centre Moriches, L. I., Aug. 19, 1904. Hundreds of this species and *Tachycineta bicolor* were at this season passing westerly on their day-time migration and this white bird was seen approaching over the salt meadows, conspicuous from its color. It was supposed to be an albino before it came to bag but the species was not determined until then. The chin and throat and portions of the remiges margining the usual white spots on the tail are washed with buffy; elsewhere the bird is pure creamy white.